

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 310462
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
FAA-00 DOTE-00 /023 R

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-----240736Z 116357 /21
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 310462

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, GB, TO

SUBJECT: GABONESE AIRCRAFT PURCHASE

REFS: A) LOME 2799; B) LIBREVILLE 2658

1. FOLLOWING ITEM APPEARED IN DECEMBER 20 ISSUE OF WASH-
INGTON POST: QUOTE: GOVERNMENT OF GABON INVITES AIRCRAFT
BIDS. DOUGLAS CO. IS IN THE PROCESS OF ENTERING INTO SERI-
OUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GABON CONCERNING
SOME AIRCRAFT SALES TO BE PURCHASED BY AIR-GABON.

DOUGLAS HAS MADE SOME ACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS, HOWEVER WITH
ITS "FREE ENTERPRISE POLICY" THE GOVERNMENT OF GABON WOULD
LIKE TO INVITE OTHER INTERESTED AIRCRAFT COMPANIES TO ALSO
CONSIDER BIDDING. END QUOTE
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2. ACCORDING TO GABONESE AMBASSADOR KOMBILA, ADVERTISEMENT
WAS TAKEN OUT ON CABLED INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOG. COMMENT:
PER REF (B), IT WOULD APPEAR GOG HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO
PURCHASE NEW AIRCRAFT DIRECTLY FROM BOEING. POST ADVER-
TISEMENT IS PROBABLY, THEREFORE, EITHER (A) WINDOW DRES-

SING; OR (B) LAST MINUTE ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN PRICE BIDS AS
MEANS OF ENSURING BOEING PROPOSALS ARE IN BALL PARK.

3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT EMILE NASR
(REF A) HAD LOOSE MANDATE FROM GOG TO TRY TO GET BEST DEAL
POSSIBLE FROM POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS. MCDONNELL DOUGLAS HAS
INFORMED DEPT THAT IT TOO HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY WOULD-BE
MIDDLEMAN IN U.S. ALLEGEDLY ACTING ON BEHALF OF GOG. END
COMMENT.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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